

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /013 W

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P 051052Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 161

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 1908

FOR EUR/EX CLARK

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ABLD, PFOR, BU

SUBJECT: PROPOSED EXCHANGE OF CHANCERY SITES

REF: MOSHER LETTER TO BATJER, JULY 15, 1975; SOFIA 1399

1. AMBASSADOR LYUBIN POPOV HAS DELAYED HIS RETURN TO WASHINGTON IN ORDER TO BE ON HAND FOR THE INGERSOLL VISIT SEPT. 16-18. ONE OF POPOV'S PRINCIPAL CONCERNS WHILE IN SOFIA HAS BEEN TO MOVE HIS OWN AUTHORITIES WITH RESPECT TO FUNDS FOR A NEW BULGARIAN CHANCERY IN WASHINGTON; AND IN THAT CONNECTION, WE REPORTED JULY 9 (REFTEL) THAT BULGARIANS WERE URGENTLY SEEKING REPLY FROM US ON FEASIBILITY OF THE "CASHLESS EXCHANGE".

2. FROM REF LETTER, WE HAVE THE IMPRESSION THERE EXIST SUBSTANTIAL DIFFICULTIES AT THE WASHINGTON END IN CARRYING THROUGH ON THE "CASHLESS EXCHANGE". IF THIS IS SO, WE REALLY SHOULD PUT THE BULGARIANS OUT OF THEIR MISERY SOONER RATHER THAN LATER.

3. IT WOULD BE A PITY TO HAVE DEPUTY SECRETARY INGERSOLL'S TIME HERE TAKEN UP WITH SUCH A MATTER, BUT GIVEN THE FACT THAT THE QUESTION IS SO DEAR TO POPOV'S HEART IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE THAT IT WILL ARISE DURING DISCUSSIONS AT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY IF WE ARE UNABLE TO PROVIDE EPSN A REPLY IN PRINCIPLE ON THE FEASIBILITY DURING THE IMMEDIATELY FORESEEABLE FUTURE OF THE "CASHLESS EXCHANGE".
HERZ

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